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Message Text

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SUBJECT:FULL U.S. MEMBERSHIP IN OECD'S NUCLEAR ENERGY
AGENCY

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OECD PARIS PASS TO BOSWORTH.

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1. AT NOVEMBER 20, 1975, IEA GOVERNING BOARD MEETING ON R&D, CHAIRMAN, U.S. DELEGATION (ROBERT SEAMANS), STATED THAT "IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE TO INITIATE DISCUSSIONS LOOKING TOWARD FULL U.S. MEMBERSHIP IN THE OECD'S NUCLEAR ENERGY AGENCY. WE WOULD HOPE THAT THESE DISCUSSIONS CAN BE SUCCESSFULLY CONCLUDED BY MID-YEAR 1976." AS PART OF FOLLOW-UP TO U.S. STATEMENT NEA SECRETARIAT (WILLIAMS AND STROHL) MET WITH DEPARTMENT AND ERDA OFFICIALS MARCH 5, 1976, FOR EXCHANGE OF VIEWS COVERING NEA/IEA RELATIONSHIP, U.S. PROGRAM INTERESTS, LEGAL ISSUES, STAFFING AND BUDGET ITEMS. REPORTING CABLE ON THIS MEETING IS BEING REPEATED TO YOU.

2. FULL U.S. PARTICIPATION IN NEA CARRIES WITH IT IMPORTANT POLITICAL AS WELL AS TECHNICAL IMPLICATIONS. WE, THEREFORE, WISH TO BEGIN EXCHANGES OF VIEWS WITH KEY IEA MEMBERS IN ORDER TO DETERMINE DEGREE TO WHICH THESE SHARE

COMMON UNDERSTANDING OF NEA ROLE IN PROGRAMS UNDERTAKEN ON BEHALF OF IEA AND RESPECTIVE POLICY ROLES OF TWO AGENCIES IN NUCLEAR AREA. ACTION POSTS ARE REQUESTED TO CONTACT SENIOR MFA OFFICIALS WITH OVERALL RESPONSIBILITY FOR ENERGY POLICY TO CONVEY FOLLOWING USG POSITION WITH REQUEST FOR REACTIONS AND VIEWS. WE HOPE THAT THESE CAN BE RECEIVED BY THE MIDDLE OF MAY SO THAT WE MAY PROCEED PROMPTLY IN OUR DISCUSSIONS WITH THE NEA SECRETARIAT ON BASIS OF A COMMON IEA MEMBER POSITION.

A. AS FOLLOW-UP TO COMMITMENT MADE BY CHAIRMAN U.S. DELEGATION AT NOVEMBER 20, 1975 IEA GOVERNING BOARD MEETING, U.S. IN PROCESS OF COMPLETING INTERNAL REVIEW OF PERTINENT ISSUES RELATED TO FULL U.S. ACCESSION TO NEA; WE HAVE ALSO HAD A PRELIMINARY EXCHANGE OF VIEWS WITH NEA SECRETARIAT ON NEA/IEA RELATIONSHIP, PROGRAM INTERESTS, STAFFING AND BUDGET ITEMS. IN VIEW OF IMPORTANCE NUCLEAR POWER IN REDUCING NEED FOR OIL IMPORTS, THE ROLE OF IEA AS FOCUS FOR ALL ENERGY COOPERATION EFFORTS OF MEMBER COUNTRIES AND NEED TO AVOID UNNECESSARY AND COSTLY DUPLICATION OF ON-GOING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

WORK IN NEA, WE FEEL IT WOULD BE USEFUL, AT THIS POINT, TO INFORM OTHER IEA COUNTRIES OF OUR CONCEPT OF IEA/NEA RELATIONSHIP AND TO SEEK THEIR VIEWS.

B. OUR DECISION RE. FULL U.S. MEMBERSHIP IN NEA IS BASED ON THAT ORGANIZATION'S ESTABLISHED EXPERTISE IN COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS OF INFORMATION RELATED TO NUCLEAR POWER, ITS SUPPORTING ROLE IN PROJECTS SUCH

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AS HALDEN AND DRAGON, ITS ACTIVITIES IN THE REGULATORY AREA, AS WELL AS ITS BROAD MEMBERSHIP AND LINKS TO OTHER SPECIALIZED AGENCIES (E.G., IAEA). WHILE OUR ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP HAS ALLOWED US TO TAP THE BENEFITS OF THESE PROGRAMS TO A LIMITED DEGREE, WE FEEL THE POINT HAS NOW BEEN REACHED WHERE U.S. PARTICIPATION IN DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION OF NEA PROGRAMS SHOULD BE ON A LEVEL COMMENSURATE WITH THE U.S. NUCLEAR ROLE IN GENERAL.

C. WE ALSO REMAIN AWARE OF NEED TO MAINTAIN POSITION OF IEA AS FOCUS FOR ENERGY COOPERATION AMONG MEMBER COUNTRIES--COOPERATION IN WHICH NUCLEAR POWER WILL PLAY A PRIME ROLE. IT IS OUR POSITION, THEREFORE, THAT THE IEA MUST MAINTAIN STRONG AND EFFECTIVE NUCLEAR ACTIVITIES AND NUCLEAR POLICY LEADERSHIP IN AREAS OF INTEREST TO IEA MEMBER COUNTRIES. THIS POSITION WAS UNDERSCORED BY SECRETARY KISSINGER IN HIS MAY 27, 1975, ADDRESS TO THE IEA MINISTERIAL MEETING WHICH CALLED FOR URGENT AND DECISIVE MOVES WITHIN THE IEA TO INTENSIFY JOINT NUCLEAR PROGRAMS. THE RECENT U.S. INITIATIVE TO ESTABLISH A NUCLEAR FUEL CYCLE GROUP COMBINING AND EXPANDING UPON EFFORTS NOW UNDERWAY IN OTHER IEA BODIES AND OUR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF THE NUCLEAR PORTIONS OF THE IEA R&D PROGRAM BOTH REFLECT U.S. COMMITMENT TO MAINTAINING FOCUS ON CONTINUING AND PRODUCTIVE NUCLEAR PROGRAMS WITHIN THE IEA.

D. WE SHARE OTHER COUNTRIES' CONCERNS THAT THERE BE NO UNNECESSARY DUPLICATION OR COMPETITION BETWEEN IEA AND NEA PROGRAMS. WE EXPECT AND DESIRE THAT IEA WILL CONTINUE TO WORK WITH NEA AND UTILIZE NEA EXPERTISE IN AREAS WHERE NEA HAS ON-GOING PROGRAMS OR RECOGNIZED CAPABILITIES TO UNDERTAKE WORK OF MUTUAL INTEREST TO IEA
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AND NEA. SUCH IMPLEMENTATION OF PROGRAMS OF MUTUAL INTEREST, IF ACCEPTABLE TO THE MEMBERS OF BOTH ORGANI-ZATIONS, WOULD BE CARRIED OUT BY THE NEA ON AN AD HOC BASIS AND SHOULD NOT BE READ AS A DELEGATION TO NEA OF IEA'S RESPONSIBILITY TO ESTABLISH ITS OWN PROGRAMS AND TO UNDERTAKE SUCH PORTIONS OF ITS PROGRAMS, EITHER COOPERATIVELY WITH NEA OR THROUGH OTHER MEANS, AS IT SEES FIT. IN ORDER TO AVOID FUTURE MISUNDERSTANDINGS OR CONFUSION, IT WOULD BE ESSENTIAL TO HAVE AN EXCHANGE OF VIEWS AMONG IEA MEMBERS ON THE RESPECTIVE ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE TWO ORGANIZATIONS WHENEVER A COOPERATIVE UNDERTAKING IS DECIDED UPON.

E. THE IEA COMMITTEE ON ENERGY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT HAS SUCCESSFULLY FOCUSSED ITS WORK ON HARDWARE-ORIENTED

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COOPERATION USING THE LEAD COUNTRY CONCEPT RATHER THAN THE SEMINARS, CONFERENCES AND INFORMATION EXCHANGES CHARACTERISTIC OF OTHER TECHNICALLY-ORIENTED PROGRAMS. EVEN THOUGH IN THE PAST THERE HAVE BEEN CASES WHERE AN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION SUCH AS NEA HAS BEEN DESIGNATED AS THE LEAD ORGANIZATION, IT IS CLEAR THAT THE STRONG INTEREST OF A SINGLE COUNTRY IS USUALLY REQUIRED TO SPARK IMPLEMENTATION OF A PRODUCTIVE, HARDWARE-ORIENTED COOPERATIVE R&D PROGRAM. WE WOULD, THEREFORE, ANTICIPATE CONTINUING THE PATTERN IN WHICH HARDWARE-ORIENTED PROJECTS ORIGINATING WITHIN THE IEA CONTINUE TO BE MANAGED USING THE LEAD COUNTRY PRINCIPLE. WE SEE NO DIMINUTION IN NEA'S TRADITIONAL ROLE. ON THE CONTRARY, WE BELIEVE THAT IEA HAS SERVED TO STRENGTHEN NEA ACTIVITIES AND THE CONTINUED RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO AGENCIES CAN AND SHOULD BE MUTUALLY REINFORCING.

F. THE NEA SECRETARIAT CURRENTLY APPEARS TO HAVE ASSUMED A MAJOR ROLE IN IDENTIFYING NEW PROGRAM ACTIVITIES AND DETERMINING HOW THESE SHOULD BE STRUCTURED. WE EXPECT, ASSUMING FULL U.S.ACCESSION TO NEA MEMBERSHIP, TO TAKE AND TO ENCOURAGE A MORE DIRECT AND ACTIVE ROLE

FOR MEMBER COUNTRIES IN THIS PROCESS AND WOULD THEREFORE
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BE ESPECIALLY INTERESTED IN ANY COMMENTS MEMBER COUNTRIES MAY HAVE ON THE RESPECTIVE ROLES OF THE SECRETARIAT AND THE STEERING COMMITTEE.

4. WE HOPE THAT THESE EXCHANGES OF VIEWS CAN BE COMPLETED BY THE MIDDLE OF MAY. AT THAT TIME WE WILL CONTINUE OUR DISCUSSIONS WITH THE SECRETARIAT ON THE PROGRAMMATIC, ORGANIZATIONAL AND PROCEDURAL ASPECTS RELATED TO U.S. ACCESSION. SISCO

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